

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Minutes and Informal Instructions of the Open Meeting of Thursday, April 9, 2015

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) met as noticed. Chairperson Nowak and Commissioner Huebsch were present in person. Commissioner Montgomery participated by telephone.

Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes of the open meeting of Monday, March 23, 2015.

490-WR-101 - Application of Birchwood Municipal Water Utility, Washburn County, Wisconsin, for Authority to Increase Water Rates

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it be signed by the Secretary to the Commission on behalf of the Commission.

4130-TE-100 - Application of the New London Electric and Water Utility, Outagamie and Waupaca Counties, Wisconsin, as an Electric Public Utility, for Tariff Changes Related to Deferred Payment Agreements

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it be signed by the Secretary to the Commission on behalf of the Commission.

4130-TW-100 - Application of the New London Electric and Water Utility, Outagamie and Waupaca Counties, Wisconsin, as a Water Public Utility, for Tariff Changes Related to Deferred Payment Agreements

The Commission approved the Notice of Proceeding and directed it be signed by the Secretary to the Commission on behalf of the Commission.

4220-GF-115 - Application of Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin for a Gas Risk Management Program

The Commission approved the Final Decision and directed it be signed by the Secretary to the Commission on behalf of the Commission.

4220-AU-138 - Application of Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin for Approval of an Administrative Services Agreement with Xcel Energy Services, Inc.

This matter was laid over at the request of the Commission.

6490-ER-106 - Application of the City of Whitehall, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, as an Electric Public Utility, for Authority to Increase Rates

The Commission discussed this matter, and made the following determinations in approving the City of Whitehall's request to increase its electric rates:

1. All of the uncontested alternatives for the uncontested issues were accepted in this matter.
2. Commission staff's rate design for residential and general service customers is appropriate in this matter as a test-case, with customers taking service under the time-of-use rates paying a lower customer charge than those taking service under the flat energy rates.
3. Commission staff shall determine the benchmarks and goals that should be achieved with this rate design and shall prepare a formal report to the Commission on the results in this matter in twelve months' time.
4. Commission staff and the City of Whitehall shall work together to notify and educate its customers on the rate options now available.

The Commission directed the Gas and Energy Division to draft an order consistent with its discussion and directed it be signed by the Secretary to the Commission on behalf of the Commission.

With regard to future municipal electric rate cases, the Commission determined that future municipal electric cases that seek to better align fixed charges with fixed costs through increases in the customer charge can be made as delegated decisions, provided the proposed increases are consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission in its decision in this docket, as well as its prior decisions in dockets 5-UR-107, 3270-UR-120, and 6690-UR-123. Consideration of whether it is appropriate to approve a differential in customer charges between standard and time-of-use rates is a fact and case-specific determination which shall not be made as part of a delegated decision at this time.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Sandra J. Paske
Secretary to the Commission